



U.S. Army Vice Chief of Staff visits Iraq

Story and photo by Spc. James P. Hunter
MNC-I PAO

Gen. Richard A. Cody, vice chief of staff, U.S. Army, awarded purple hearts, combat infantryman, medical and action badges, and re-enlisted several Soldiers during a two-day tour of Iraq.

Cody wanted a first person view of Iraq.

He visited with troops at various forward operating bases throughout Iraq, Monday and Tuesday.

Cody re-enlisted over 150 Soldiers, awarded four Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star Medal and numerous combat badges to Soldiers for their hard work and dedication in fighting the war on terror.

Spc. Frank Crisafulli, administrator, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Infantry Division, took the oath of enlistment at Camp Liberty from Cody.

Being re-enlisted by a four-star general was a once in a lifetime chance for Crisafulli. He feels that his job in Iraq is not finished yet and his experience is knowledge that can be passed on to his fellow Soldiers.

For Spc. Jeremy Lancaster, medic, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, it was an amazing experience receiving his combat medical badge by the Army Vice Chief of Staff.

He felt that a high-ranking general officer awarding him his CMB lets him know Soldiers are appreciated for their efforts on the ground.

Lancaster was awarded the CMB for his actions during his first mission in early October.

His convoy was hit by an improvised explosive device. He dismounted the vehicle and ran toward the smoke.



Gen. Richard A. Cody, vice chief of staff, U.S. Army, recites the oath of enlistment to Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, during a re-enlistment ceremony Tuesday. Cody visited troops at various forward operating bases throughout Iraq, Monday and Tuesday.

He heard small arms fire in the background, but focused on treating the wounded Soldiers.

"The more pressure I'm under, the more focused I am even though (the enemy) is firing at me," Lancaster said. "I know (the Soldiers) count on me, just as much as I count on them."

Though Cody awarded many troops during his visit, he said he came to Iraq most importantly to see first hand the progress the military is making and to speak with servicemembers and junior leaders.

The general wanted the servicemembers assessment of their training prior to deploying, the training they received in Kuwait and how well it prepared them for their mission.

"I wanted to hear from the Soldiers what they thought about the equipment, what they thought about their leaders, as well as their assessment on how they think their unit mission was going here in Iraq," he said.

Whether it was a company, platoon, battalion or brigade sized element he visited, Cody said the Soldiers absolutely felt the training they received was on target and set them up for success.

"Every Soldier told me they had the best equipment. They were confident in their equipment, but more importantly they were competent in their equipment," Cody said.

see VISIT, page 3

In today's Victory Times:

Page 2: Chaplain's Corner
Three day weather fore
cast

Page 3: 76th Band prepares
for tour

Page 4: Camp Victory op-
erating hours



Inspector General prepares for Quality of Life Inspection

Col. Joseph Coleman, MNC-I Inspector General, swears in temporary assistant IGs, Maj. Charles M. Herring, chaplain, and Sgt. 1st Class Christopher A. Balduf, equal opportunity adviser, Feb. 4. They will serve as assistant IGs for the duration of the Quality of Life Inspection, the first inspection for the MNC-I IG office since arriving in theater. For more information on IG inspections contact Capt. Joe Bethel, 822-4106 or Master Sgt. Renee Baldwin, 822-4270.

Camp Victory Three-day forecast

Thursday



Partly Cloudy
High: 58 F
Low: 41 F

Friday



Sunny
High: 54 F
Low: 37 F

Saturday



Sunny
High: 61 F
Low: 40 F

Chaplain's Corner

I'm a flashlight

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

The two things I grab when I leave my trailer at "0 dark 30" for an early morning pit stop are the keys (Yes, I've locked myself out once already!) and my flashlight. My night vision is really poor and I've walked right into building corners, concrete barriers and straight through the mother of all mud puddles. The flashlight has become a primary instrument of my early morning treks. Walking back to my trailer early this morning I got to thinking about the beam of light from the flashlight.

There is no mistaking the effect of light upon a very dark and starless evening.

The beam of light splits the darkness ahead of me and I can walk safely through a tunnel of light as long as I stay within the beam of light. God wants to fill us with His light. He wants us to shine as luminous testimony of His presence and power in our lives, so that the darkness in the lives of those around us will be displaced by the light of God's glory.

If, however, you notice the world around you becoming darker and darker, don't blame the darkness! It is simply doing what darkness does. The only remedy for darkness is light. If the world is becoming darker, the problem is not with the darkness. The problem is with the light. Jesus said His disciples should be the "light of the world". What an awesome responsibility – to be the ones through whom God would shine His divine light and dispel the darkness from around others!

In announcing His own coming, Jesus said, "The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned" (Matthew 4:16). You can see someone with a flashlight coming at you in the dark from quite a distance. As they get closer you prepare to pass safely without bumping into them. I've done that too in the dark without my flashlight.

There was no ignoring Jesus' arrival upon earth! Darkness was dispelled! Everywhere Jesus went, God's truth was boldly proclaimed, people were healed, hypocrisy was exposed, and sinners found forgiveness. The world was never the same once the Father introduced His light through His Son. Can that be said of us as well? Do our coworkers recognize the light that is with us? When God's light is allowed to shine unhindered through our lives, the darkness around us will be dispelled.

VISIT

"Whether it be a weapon system, a digital battle command communications system or radar, our Soldiers (are) competent in the equipment we gave them, and they (are) extremely confident in their ability to utilize that equipment," Cody continued.

In his 34 years of service, Cody said these Soldiers are the best equipped he has ever seen.

When talking with many of the troops,

the general said they relayed to him their confidence in their leadership.

He asked several young Soldiers who they would nominate for an award or coin, and they always nominated their platoon sergeant, platoon leader, company commander or first sergeant.

"They trust them and they know they're well led," he said.

Soldiers also expressed to the general their respect for the Iraqi Army and the progress they have witnessed.

"They're confident that the Iraqi Army is going to be able to take over the mission

and provide the Iraqi people a safe and secure environment," Cody said.

Cody said the Soldiers are proud to train and patrol with the Iraqi forces to better the Iraqi Army.

He said he saw the things he wanted to see and learned a tremendous amount from the young men and women serving.

"I'm taking those things they taught me and going back to the Army staff. I'm going to challenge the Army staff to continue to respond to the innovativeness and operational needs of the Soldier here in (combat)," Cody insisted.

Band prepares for tour at forward operating bases in Iraq

Story By Pfc. Sean C. Finch
MNC-I PAO

The sun goes beyond the horizon and the moon rises into the sand filled sky, but the sounds of live music permeate the Camp Victory air. This is not music provided by a headliner on a United Service Organization's tour, but by soldiers desiring to share their love of music with others.

A make-shift stage is set, and next to an emptied pool behind the Camp Victory Post Exchange, a section of the 76th Army Band is ready to rock and roll, but the band is not only limited to the eyes and ears of those stationed on Camp Victory; soon the band will begin one of many tours.

While this section, also known as, the 76th Army Garage Band, may be seen in and around the Camp Victory and Camp Liberty areas, they serve as a traveling morale booster to Multinational Corps-Iraq and its subordinate units.

For Soldiers deployed into various regions of Iraq and performing enumerable jobs while in country, the band going on tour represents a pause in the day-to-day lifestyle.

"We are providing a boost and a break from the monotony, by getting some great music played to troops all over the country," said 1st Sgt. Kevin R. Miley, 76th Army Band first sergeant.

"I really enjoy knowing that people are allowed to get out and enjoy our presence," he said.

It is not just music to the troops, it is a way of remembering that their stay is temporary, and knowing that they will be home with friends and family when they



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Bryan Myhr

Staff Sgt. Pursel and Spc. Fattal play at the first performance of the V Corps Dixie Band called "Sergeant Pursel's Nitty Gritty Mud Band". Soldiers performed Dixie style music at the food court area on Camp Victory Jan. 26.

finish here," added Miley.

The musicians that make up the Garage Band double up on their duties by playing additional instruments. Some of the Soldiers may play the trombone in the 76th whereas in the Garage Band they now take on the additional responsibility of also playing the bass guitar.

"I joined the Army to help other Soldiers," he said. "Our bands are here for that reason and, everyday, we give everything we can to Soldiers. Now, we have an additional way to help Soldiers.

This particular part of our band affords us the privilege of getting to a more contemporary crowd."

The Garage Band puts on shows anywhere they can, said Spc. Jeff Long, a vocalist for the band.

Garage Band Soldiers are out of the Camp Victory area of operation more than half of each week trying to lift spirits and improve the general attitude of every location they visit.

"It really fires me up to know that what we do matters to a lot of people," said Long. "I guess my favorite part of the job is watching that guy who just strolls up not knowing what to expect and then he just feels moved to have an exciting evening," he said.

The concerts are always free and, more often than not, bring large crowds. As a general observation; the more remote the area, the more people show up starved for great tunes, said Long.

The band plays an extensive list of music from the sounds of Ritchie Blackmore and Deep Purple, to more modern bands such as Seven Mary Three or the White Stripes, and generations of music evolution from the decades in between.

The various bands can be heard practicing in the emptied pool behind the Victory Post Exchange most days of the week and are always open to new ideas and having jam sessions with anyone who plays an instrument or reserves a passion for singing. Anyone interested in getting to know more about the band need look no further than a quick conversation with any of the band members in order to find out when and where they are available, said Long.

Until then, the band continues to travel and play a cornucopia of music in order to improve the morale of soldiers stationed in units throughout Iraq.

"Hopefully, our music can bring a release and some happiness and excitement to troops deployed all over this country," concluded Long. "We will keep jamming as long as they want to listen and have a good time,"

Operating hours

Coalition Cafe

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m.
Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Sports Oasis

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 - 9 p.m.

Shoppette

Open 24 Hours

Camp Liberty Post Exchange

Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fitness Center

Open 24 Hours

Chapel (Bldg. 31)

Sunday:

Protestant Service 7 and 8:45 a.m.
Catholic Mass 10:30 a.m.
Gospel Service Noon
Mormon (LDS) 2 p.m.
Episcopal 4 p.m.
Full Life Service 6 p.m.

Saturday:

7th Day Adventist 11 a.m.
Catholic Mass 8 p.m.
Mini-Chapel (Bldg. 2)

Friday:

Jewish Service 6:30 p.m.
Eastern Orthodox services:

Saturday:

Vespers 5 p.m.
Confession 5:30 p.m.
Bible Study 7 p.m.

Sunday:

Divine Liturgy 9 a.m.

Post Office

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

Golby Troop Medical Clinic

Sick Call Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Dental Sick Call:

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Post Deployment Health Briefings:

Monday - Friday 1 p.m.

Pharmacy:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

10K FUN RUN/WALK




MWR AREA 51
Feb. 19 2006
Show Time 6:30 am
Start Time 7:00 am

Free "T" shirt for the first 200 to complete the run
Sponsored by **PROUDARMYPARENTS**
Hosted by **Sgt. 1ST Class Rumph 822-5115**
Task Force 30th Medical Brigade Equal Opportunities Adviser



Someone on the other end of that line...



is watching you.



0038 IEDs KILL

 Human Relations / Equal Opportunity Office 

Prevention of Sexual harassment (POSH) / Sexual Assault Prevention & Response (SAPR) Training Program

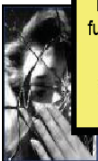
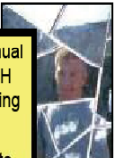
*Sexual harassment derails good order and discipline.
Sexual assault is a crime. It destroys lives and undermines unit readiness.*



	POSH	SAPR
Feb. 16:	1030-1130 & 1130-1230	
Feb. 20:	1300-1400 & 1400-1500	
Feb. 23:	1300-1400 & 1400-1500	

Location: Al Faw Palace Ballroom
EO is everybody's business!

SAPR training fulfills annual requirements and POSH fulfills quarterly EO training requirements.

You owe it to yourself to attend.

 **TF 30th MED BDE** 


presents

The African American/Black History Month Closing Luncheon

"Reaching Out to Youth: A Strategy for Excellence"

Location: NFL Room, Sports Oasis DFAC
Date & Time: Feb. 20, Noon - 1:30 pm

RSVP for all 06/CSM and above NLT Feb. 18
Contact Capt. Buenaventura @ 242-0283
lexia.buenaventura@iraq.centcom.mil



POC for more information is Sgt. 1st Class Rumph at 822-5115

Victory Times welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to brian.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil.

We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.

DRIVE SAFELY !!

This driver was wearing his seat belt, driving within the speed limit and he was in his proper lane.



The driver of this vehicle had his life tragically altered by a reckless driver.

Don't be the OTHER driver!!

MNC-I Commanding General: Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli
MNC-I Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Michelle L. Martin-Hing
MNC-I PA Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. Paul J. Stevenson
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Lance Cpl. Drew Hendricks, Pfc. Sean C. Finch

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